



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

Appropriations Health Subcommittee Workgroup: March 19, 2019

Co-Chairs: Senator Dennis Bradley and Representative Patricia Dillon

We appreciate the opportunity to discuss Governor Lamont’s recommended budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 as it relates to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). We have included the following information in response to questions posed at the Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on March 1, 2019.

1) Please provide a DDS position count explanation.

The DDS authorized position count is 2,980 positions. As of March 1, 2019, DDS has a filled permanent full-time position count of 2,171, which includes positions currently in the recruitment process. In addition, DDS employs 621 part-time staff, totaling an additional 363 full-time positions. As the department periodically moves work from part-time to full-time positions, the department believes it is appropriate to convert the current part-time positions to full-time equivalents to ensure an accurate position count. With this in mind, the department’s total position count would be 2,534, which leaves an unfunded vacancy count of 446.

2) Please provide the following information on community living arrangements (CLAs also known as group homes):

- **How many CLAs are public vs private;**

As of March 1, 2019

Community Living Arrangements (CLAs)	Public	Private Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)	Private Non-ICF	Total
Number of CLAs*	34**	67	775	876
Number of Individuals Placed in CLAs	180	349	3169	3698

*All CLAs listed are active as of March 1, 2019 and have current placements

**This figure includes the two CLAs in the conversion process

- **projected savings of converting all group homes; and**

In FY 2020 the department will be operating 32 CLAs serving a projected 169 individuals. In FY 2019 the department closed or converted ten CLAs serving 49 individuals for an estimated savings of \$13,290 per individual per year (including the impact of Special Act 18-2, *An Act Concerning Minimum Employee Wages for Providers of State-Administered Services for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities*). By extrapolating these savings across the projected 169 individuals in public CLAs the estimated savings is \$2.2 million per year.

- **How many of the private group homes were once public?**

Below is a breakout by fiscal year of the number of public CLAs that converted to a private CLA. Prior to 2016, between the years 2000 to 2010, the department estimates 45 additional conversions were planned and converted.

**DDS Public Community Living Arrangements (CLAs)
Closures & Conversions FY16 - FY19**

Closures: physical location closes, individuals move to alternative settings (typically within public/DDS).

Conversions: physical location remains open, individuals remain in the home, operations are transferred from public (DDS) to private provider.

	# Closures	# Conversions
FY16	1	2
FY17	1	9
FY18	0	10
FY19	3	5
In Process	0	2
Total	5	28

- 3) **Have the department’s costs for Workers’ Compensation increased or decreased over last fiscal year?**

The department is projecting an increase of \$1.3 million from FY 2018 in Workers’ Compensation expenditures.

FY 2018 Workers’ Compensation expenditures: \$13,649,274

FY 2019 Workers’ Compensation estimated expenditures: \$14,987,770

This projected increase is based on increases in the medical area of expenditures (inpatient hospital care, outpatient hospital care and prescription drugs) and stipulated agreements due to ongoing litigation through the Office of the Attorney General.

4) Please provide the following information on Southbury Training School (STS):

- **average age of individuals living at STS;**

As of March 1, 2019, the average age of individuals living in STS is 69 years of age.

Please see attachments for additional detail.

- **average Level of Need (LON) assessment score of individuals living at STS;**

As of March 1, 2019, based on a score from 1 to 8, the average LON of individuals living in STS is 6.4.

Please see attachments for additional detail.

- **how many residents have agreed to placements, what is the timeline to provide such placements and what is the projected cost of placements; and**

Since the signing of the Settlement Agreement on November 18, 2010 a total of 112 individuals have transitioned from STS to live in the community.

As of March 1, 2019, five individuals were actively involved in the placement process. This means the individual and their family have signed a consent for the individual to leave STS and that the department, the individual and their family are working to identify community placement. Throughout the placement process, the department and the family are also creating a person-centered plan to ensure all of individual's needs are met in the new community setting.

In terms of projected costs of placements, in the fall of 2017 the department sole sourced two CLAs for individuals residing at STS. The first was a 4 bed program costing \$827,459 with an average per individual cost of \$206,865. The second was a 6 bed program costing \$1,218,645 with an average per individual cost of \$203,108. When the per individual costs of both these CLAs are averaged, the department estimates the cost of placement for individuals currently living at STS is \$204,610. It is important to note that this is an average projected cost. Individualized placement cost cannot be actualized until a Level of Need assessment is completed at the time of transition.

- **Does SEBAC require the Southbury Training School fire department employees have to be offered a transfer within a certain distance?**

Yes, the SEBAC agreement provides parameters for the department in terms of geographic radius of redeployment location and commuting distance.

5) How will holdbacks be applied to the agency? What programmatic or staffing impact may it have?

The Governor's budget annualizes the FY 2019 holdback of \$982,254 in the Personal Services account. The Department plans to achieve these savings through continued reductions in overtime.

6) How many staff will be affected by the two closures in the Governor’s budget and what options are available to staff?

The department has not yet identified the two CLAs noted for closure in the Governor’s proposed budget. As each CLA differs in the amount of staff employed, the department is unable to provide an approximate number of staff that may be affected by this budget provision. To that end, DDS will redeploy any and all staff that may be affected by such closures to other available opportunities within the agency. This is standard operating procedure within the department for all unionized employees.

7) How many individuals are receiving residential services from DDS?

Residence Type as of March 1, 2019	Individuals Residing in Each Setting
Family Home-with Support	1486
Independent Living-with Support (with or without roommates)	1283
Community Companion Homes	385
Continuous Residential Support	731
Community Living Arrangement (CLA)-Non Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) (includes public and private)	3349
CLA-ICF	349
Regional Centers	148
Southbury Training School	183
Total	7914

8) DDS requested \$11 million for Emergency placements and is proposed to receive \$5.6 million. Please explain how this changes the department’s plan for services.

The department mistakenly added its current service request to the current appropriation which essentially doubled the department’s request for Emergency Placement funding to \$11 million. As the Governor’s proposed budget reflects our original intent to annualize the FY 2019 allocation, our plan to maintain current services will not change.

9) Additional information requested on Step Up/Step Down unit and Enhanced Family Support options.

DDS was appropriated \$5 million for emergency placements in FY 2019. This funding is being used to support several crisis intervention and prevention strategies to deescalate crisis situations and prevent long-term hospital emergency department stays.

In March 2019, DDS opened a pilot Step Up/Down Unit to support individuals in crisis and in need of behavioral stabilization, who are coming from community-based settings or hospital emergency departments. The unit is a short-term program focused on stabilization and successful transition of individuals to ongoing community-based supports and is being piloted as a public service, due to the limited timeframe associated with program development. DDS will seek to gather data and feedback on this model

and develop best practices to expand into potential private expansion of the service in the future. Annualized costs are estimated to be approximately \$3 million.

DDS has also expanded our Enhanced Family Support (EFS) options, specifically focusing on increasing capacity to provide rapid support to individuals living in community-based settings who may be near or experiencing a crisis. Services may include interim supports due to changes in the individual's physical, mental or emotional status. Interim supports may also be requested for assistance needed in direct relation to caregiver age or ability to provide care for the individual, while other permanent supports and services can be coordinated. This initiative has allowed DDS to work toward increased partnership and collaboration with sister agencies, particularly in the area of mobile crisis programs. The emergency placement appropriation has afforded DDS the opportunity to add 15 additional EFS workers, as well as three Behavioral Health Clinical Managers (one per Region) to oversee and lend clinical support to these expanded teams. Annualized costs are estimated to be approximately \$1.1 million for these additional team members.

The remaining emergency placement funds are being used to support expanded respite opportunities, access to community-based mental health services, and specialized training.